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CIA Plans To Destroy Records

By George Lardner Jr. Washington Post Staff Writer

The Central Intelligence-Agency notified Senate leaders yesterday that it is planning to destroy secret records compiled over the past year concerning illegal and improper activities.

CIA Director George Eush said in a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) and Minority Leader Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) that the agency had "placed in effect a complete moratorium on the destruction of records, including normal administrative records scheduled for routine destruction" as a result of the Senate and executive branch investigations launched in January, 1975.

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Now that the Senate intelligence committee, headed by Frank Church (D-Idaho), has completed its inquiry and issued its final report, Bush said, the CIA plans to proceed with the destruction of a backlog of routine administrative records and of other records "which were collected and maintained by the agency and which were subject to investigation by the Rockefeller commission and the select committee."

A spokesman for the Sen ate intelligence committee. which was also notified, said, "There's no objection from this source because this committee has gone out of business." The spokesman added that "we assume there'll be a record copy kept" of nonroutine files. The Church committee turned back to the CIA various documents it borrowed and gave its own files, some 45 cabinets full, to the new Senate intelligence committee headed by Daniel Inouve (D.Hawaii).

Bush said the CIA would have to destroy much of the material compiled for investigators because of the new Federal Privacy Act and President Ford's recent reorganization order covering the intelligence community. At the same time, the CIA director assured Mansfield and Scott that "all records destruction will be fully consistent with other applicable laws, presidential directives, and the requirements of pending litigation and Justice Department investigations."